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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,230	06/22/2002	Shinya Tokunaga	18.009-AG	4447

29453 7590 01/17/2003

JUDGE PATENT FIRM
RIVIERE SHUKUGAWA 3RD FL.
3-1 WAKAMATSU-CHO
NISHINOMIYA-SHI, HYOGO, 662-0035
JAPAN

EXAMINER

AGUIRRECHEA, JAYDI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,230

Applicant(s)

TOKUNAGA, SHINYA

Examiner

Jaydi A. Aguirrechea

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shuhei (JP 07-007886) in view of Ichiyama (US5658080).

Shuhei teaches a spindle motor comprising:

a shaft (21);

a round cone portion being a part of said shaft (Figure 1), and whose diameter changes evenly along said shaft longitudinally;

a conical cavity (18) whose opening changes in diameter evenly along said shaft longitudinally, to correspond in contour to said cone portion, for accommodating said cone portion, said conical cavity having an inner peripheral surface opposing a lateral surface of said cone portion across an approximately uniform gap (See Figure 1);

a member including said conical cavity (12); and

one dynamic-pressure bearing (A) formed in said gap, between the lateral surface of said cone portion and the inner peripheral surface of said conical cavity opposing the lateral surface.

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However, it fails to disclose the oil filling a clearance, including the approximately uniform gap, between said cone portion and said conical cavity, wherein said oil is retained continuously without interruption.

Ichiyama teaches the use of the oil for lubrication purposes .

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the oil disclosed by Ichiyama on the rotor structure disclosed by Shuhei for lubricating purposes.

3. With regards to claim 2, Shuhei discloses the motor structure including a magnetic biasing means acting in a direction counter to thrust-directed bearing force generated by action of said dynamic-pressure bearing, and cooperating with said dynamic-pressure bearing to support said shaft and said member rotating one relative to the other (Paragraph 002 – Machine Translation JP 07-007886).

4. With regards to claim 3, the combination Ichiyama and Shuhei discloses a disk-shaped cover (25) having an aperture through which said shaft is inserted (Column 3, lines 20-25).

5. With regards to claim 2, Shuhei discloses the motor structure including a recess area form at the bottom of the conical area. (Figure 1)

6. With regards to claim 5, the combination of Ichiyama and Shuhei discloses the claimed invention (Figure 4- Shuhei).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaydi A. Aguirrechea whose telephone number is 703-305-2277.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 703-308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-1341 for regular communications and 703-305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

JAA
January 9, 2003


NESTOR RAMIREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800